



Taiwan Mission 2025 Report

Mark D. Harris, MD Harris Institute, Inc.

Taiwan Situation March 2025

- Wealthy, industrialized Pacific Island, 95 miles from the coast of Communist China.
- Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) is the top in the world
- Population 24 million - Han Chinese 70%, Buddhist 35%, Taoist 33%, Christians 3.9%, fertility rate 1.11 so population is shrinking
- Natural disasters – high risk including tsunamis, volcanoes, earthquakes, landslides, droughts, and typhoons
- History
 - Occupied by Japan 1895-1945
 - Ruled by Nationalist Chinese (KMT) 1945-2000
 - Democratic government 2000-present
- Current - Few nations consider Taiwan to be an independent country due to conflict with China. America has no embassy in Taiwan.

China conflict

- Mainland China insists that Taiwan is a renegade province
- They vow to recover Taiwan by any means necessary
- China is rapidly building its military, and has the largest navy in the world



Why does China want Taiwan so badly?

- Taiwan occupies the key position in blocking China's naval movement into the Pacific Ocean
- The South China Sea (SCS) has vast proven oil and mineral deposits
- One third of global shipping and 40% of global petroleum pass through the SCS annually.
- Stopping SCS trade would defuel and starve China, Japan, and Korea





What can Christians do?

- Be informed and pray.
- Inform countrymen of needs in Taiwan, Ukraine, other danger regions such as the Middle East, and the USA
- Study each other's situation to uncover needs not previously identified
- Share knowledge and personal experience. Ukraine is at war and Taiwan could be at any time. Ukrainian Christians have experiences of great value to Taiwanese Christians.
- Work together in areas outside of directly Christian ones, including trade, military, research, business, emergency, and disaster.
- Meet and worship virtually.
- Share physical resources.
- **Send and receive missions teams for in-person ministry.**
- Plant churches

Taiwan Mission Trip 24 Feb to 6 Mar - Objectives

OB 1 Build bridges - Between churches and seminaries in Taiwan, the US, and Ukraine, sharing information and resources to support each other, especially in times of geopolitical and spiritual danger.

OB 2 Spiritual care - Worship together, prayer walk, counsel, and otherwise bless Christians, churches, and pastors in Taiwan, especially Taipei.

OB 3 Research - Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism as part of teaching World Religions in the US and Ukraine.

OB 4 Emergency and disaster preparedness and response - Encourage collaboration and information sharing with personnel and US counterparts.

OB 5 Informal qualitative exploratory study - Interviews, participant observation, and document reviews to evaluate Taiwanese willingness and capability to resist Chinese aggression.

OB 6 Cultural observations – Understand non-religious aspects of Taiwanese Culture

OB 1 and 2 - Building bridges and Spiritual Care (BBSC) in Taiwanese Churches and Seminary

- Taipei International Church
 - Pastor Brad Warne, info@taipeichurch.org
 - <https://www.taipeichurch.org/>.
 - <https://www.facebook.com/Taipei.Intl.Church>.
 - https://www.instagram.com/tic_taipeichurch/.
 - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCb_DF4LVCX5aLkdkOqmkyjA.
- Grace Baptist Church
 - English Pastor Nick Brideson
 - suejenny@gbc.org.tw,
 - tele 02 2362 5321 ext 136
 - <https://ec.gbc.org.tw/>
- The Aroma Church (and cafe)
 - Andrew Chen, Associate Pastor/Worship Team Leader
 - <https://en.thearoma.tw/%E5%9C%98%E9%9A%8A>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/thearoma/>
 - <https://www.instagram.com/aromacafetaipei/>
- Taiwan Baptist Christian Theological Seminary
 - President – Dr. Joseph Tan
 - <https://www.tbts.edu.tw/>.





OB 1,2 - BBSC – Grace Baptist Church (GBC) and Taiwan Baptist Theological Seminary (TBTS)

OB 2 - General spiritual care observations

- English services similar to US
 - Order of service (Song-Announcements-Song-Prayer-Song-Message-Prayer)
 - Worship team instrumentation and songs
- Many Taiwanese pastors trained in US seminaries





OB2 (Spiritual Care) - Worship, prayer, counseling, encouragement
at GBC and TIC

BBSC - Ukrainian Churches and Seminary to match with Taiwanese churches

- Restoration Church - Kyiv.
 - Pastor Oleg Pavlischuck.
 - Mcpavlick@gmail.com.
 - + 380980070902.
 - <https://www.facebook.com/share/16Bw3VbmpK/?mibextid=wwXlfr>
 - <https://www.instagram.com/vidnovlennya.church?igsh=MT R3NWdkc2I4NDB1Yw==>.
- Renewal Church - Kyiv.
 - Pastor Olexandr Khandus.
 - alex.khandus@gmail.com.
 - +380989461778
 - https://www.instagram.com/cerkva_onovlennya?igsh=MWR zNDBpcjl5ZXVxaA==.
- Grace Church - Brovary town, Kyiv region.
 - Pastor Rostislav Babenko.
 - radiktwr@gmail.com.
 - +380639344330
 - <https://www.facebook.com/share/18SY5nb51J/?mibextid=wwXlfr>
 - <https://youtube.com/@-grace.brovary?si=xSEEYBW2tff43tO>.
- Hope Church - Zvyagel town.
 - Pastor Edward Hodun,
 - eduard.hodun@gmail.com.
 - +380 (93) 255 77 65
- New Life Church - Vyshneve town, Kyiv region.
 - Pastor Roman Dubynets,
 - dubynetsr@gmail.com.
 - +380680607621 (Telegram, Viber, WhatsApp)
- House of Gospel - Sumy town.
 - Pastor Marioyha Mykola,
 - Mnikolay1977@gmail.com.
 - +380955763103
 - <https://www.facebook.com/share/15sq92nzL9/?mibextid=wwXlfrhttps://www.instagram.com/pravda.church?igsh=cWxv NnFwMmFwNwV5>.
- Central Baptist Church – Lviv.
 - David Karcha – associate pastor
 - <http://baptist.lviv.ua/>.
 - <https://www.facebook.com/LvivCBC>.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/c/LvivCBC/videos>.
- Ukrainian Baptist Theological Seminary – Lviv
 - President Yaroslav Pugh
 - <https://ubts.org.ua/>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/ubts.org.ua/>.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/user/UBTS2000>
- Didasko School of Children’s Ministers
- Kviv information courtesy of Ruslan Khmyz



BBSC – LCBC & UBTS in Ukraine

The Aroma Church - Taipei

- Evangelism and discipleship using a café attached to a church is common in Asia.
- Young clientele
- Growing in popularity
- English speaking



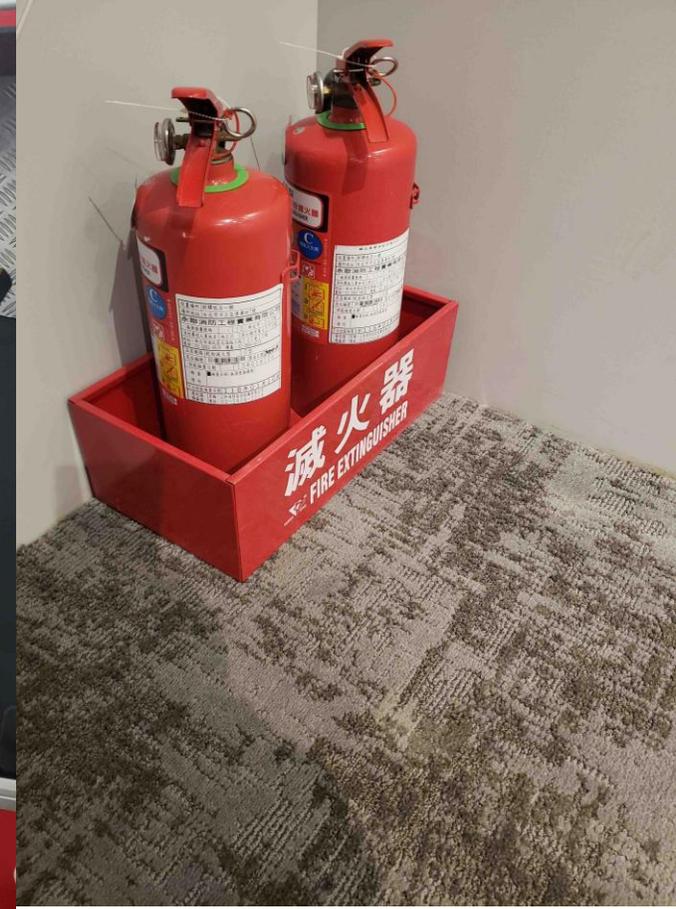


Objective 3 - Research Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism



Non-Christian Religions

- A temple on every corner, similar to churches in the US
- Temples geared to the emotions and sensations – bright colors, incense, candles, fruit, gold, lanterns, and idols
- The Communists oppressed religion under Mao (Cultural Revolution), and today Christianity is growing in China. Nationalists did not oppress religion, and today church growth is stagnant.
- Wealth decreases the felt need for Christ.
- High degree of syncretism between Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism



Objective 4 – Emergency and Disaster Response

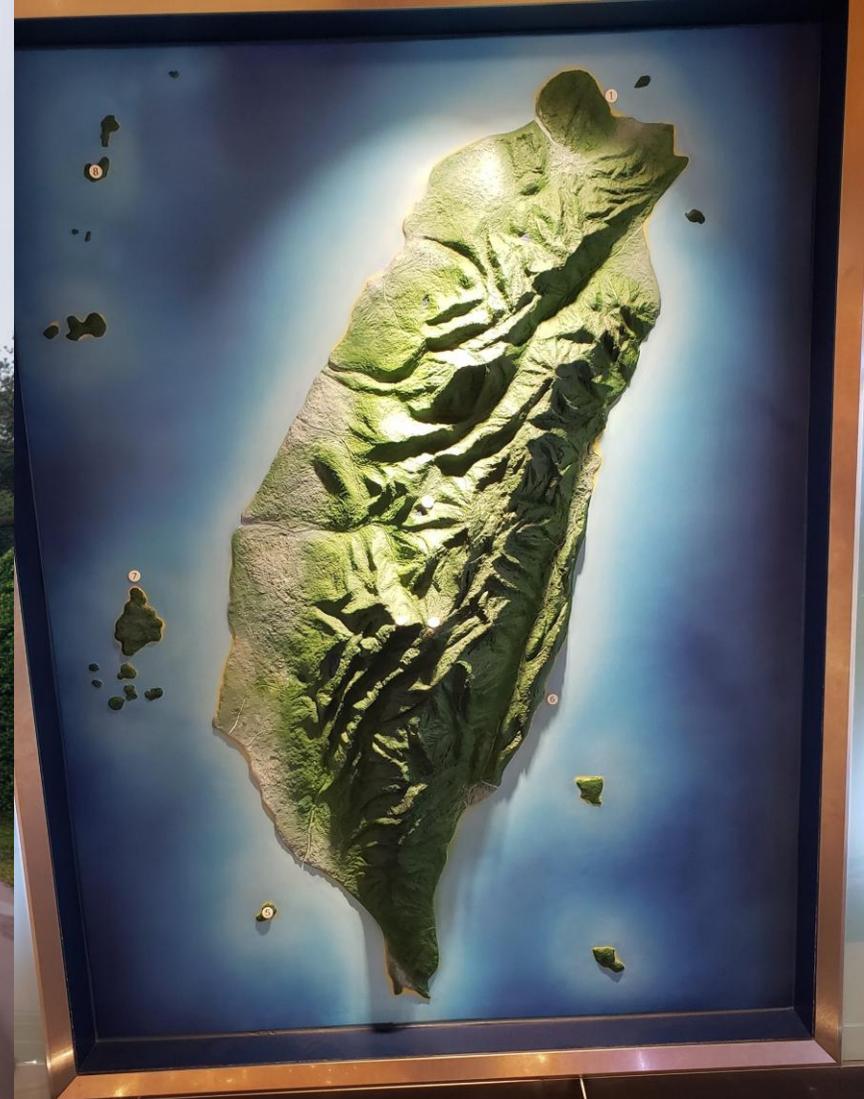
Emergency and Disaster

- Taiwan is well prepared for natural disasters and emergencies
- Shelters are common in Taipei
- Fire equipment and apparatus similar to those used in the US.
- Medical system is decentralized with outpatient and surgical capabilities widespread.
- Civilian and military providers work hand in hand on civilians and military members in the same facilities.
- Inpatient beds limited





Taipei Main Metro Fire Station



Objective 5 – Study on Taiwanese Resistance

OB 5 – Military Study Findings

- Demography - Older people are more likely to consider themselves Chinese while younger people are more likely to consider themselves Taiwanese or another subgroup of Chinese. Older people are less willing to fight than younger ones.
- Religious diversity – more diversity decreases desire to fight
- Most vulnerable invasion areas - flat beaches on the west coast, especially the northern tip with airports, docks, rail, and Taipei.
- Mountains hinder landing and transportation on the east coast
- Multiple rivers (Tamsui, Keelung) penetrate Taipei, providing avenues of approaches for invading soldiers
- No one interviewed or observed expected Taiwan to save itself without US assistance, even if Japan intervenes.
- Most interviewed felt like Americans would not come to their aid.
- High density urban population is more vulnerable to high casualty events and utility disruption.

Objective 6 – Taiwanese Cultural Observations

- Ubiquitous American cultural influence, with widespread English use
- Accepted Japanese influence despite occupation 1895-1945
- High levels of mask use (i.e. 60% on MRT), F>M, old > young





Taiwan culture

Commercialism and Secularism

Conclusion – Objectives met

Objective 1 - Bridges (at least prayer) encouraged by all Taiwanese Christian organizations

Objective 2 – Spiritual Care (worship, teaching, counseling, prayer walks)

Objective 3 – Research Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism for subsequent world religion class

Objective 4 – Emergency and Disaster Preparedness and Response

Objective 5 – Study on Taiwanese willingness and capability to fight Chinese aggression.

Objective 6 - Cultural observations – Understand non-religious aspects of Taiwanese Culture

Questions?

